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10 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

11 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

12 STRIKE 3 HOLDINGS, LLC,

Case Number:

13 Plaintiff,

**COMPLAINT FOR COPYRIGHT
INFRINGEMENT - DEMAND FOR
JURY TRIAL**

14 vs.

15 JOHN DOE subscriber assigned IP
16 address 172.249.120.83,

17 Defendant.

18

19 Plaintiff, Strike 3 Holdings, LLC, brings this complaint against John Doe
20 subscriber assigned IP address 172.249.120.83, and alleges as follows:

21 **Introduction**

22 1. This is a case about the ongoing and wholesale copyright
23 infringement of Plaintiff's motion pictures by Defendant, currently known only by
24 an IP address.

25 2. Plaintiff, Strike 3 Holdings, LLC ("Strike 3" or "Plaintiff") is the
26 owner of award winning, critically acclaimed adult motion pictures.

27 3. Strike 3's motion pictures are distributed through the *Blacked*, *Tushy*,
28 *Vixen*, and *Blacked Raw* adult websites and DVDs. With more than 20 million

1 unique visitors to its websites each month, the brands are famous for redefining
2 adult content, creating high-end, artistic, and performer-inspiring motion pictures
3 produced with a Hollywood style budget and quality.

4 4. Defendant is, in a word, stealing these works on a grand scale. Using
5 the BitTorrent protocol, Defendant is committing rampant and wholesale
6 copyright infringement by downloading Strike 3's motion pictures as well as
7 distributing them to others. Defendant did not infringe just one or two of Strike
8 3's motion pictures, but has been recorded infringing 140 movies over an
9 extended period of time.

10 5. Although Defendant attempted to hide this theft by infringing
11 Plaintiff's content anonymously, Defendant's Internet Service Provider ("ISP"),
12 Spectrum (Time Warner Cable), can identify Defendant through his or her IP
13 address 172.249.120.83.

14 6. This is a civil action seeking damages under the United States
15 Copyright Act of 1976, as amended, 17 U.S.C. §§ 101 et seq. (the “Copyright
16 Act”).

Jurisdiction and Venue

18 7. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to
19 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (federal question); and 28 U.S.C. § 1338 (jurisdiction over
20 copyright actions).

21 8. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because
22 Defendant used an Internet Protocol address (“IP address”) traced to a physical
23 address located within this District to commit copyright infringement. Therefore
24 (i) Defendant committed the tortious conduct alleged in this Complaint in this
25 State; and, (ii) Defendant resides in this State and/or; (iii) Defendant has engaged
26 in substantial – and not isolated – business activity in this State.

27 9. Plaintiff used IP address geolocation technology by Maxmind Inc.
28 (“Maxmind”), an industry-leading provider of IP address intelligence and online

fraud detection tools, to determine that Defendant's IP address traced to a physical address in this District. Over 5,000 companies, along with United States federal and state law enforcement, use Maxmind's GeoIP data to locate Internet visitors, perform analytics, enforce digital rights, and efficiently route Internet traffic.

10. In order to ensure that Defendant's IP address accurately traced to this District, Plaintiff inputted Defendant's IP address into Maxmind's GeoIP database twice: first when it learned of the infringement and again, just prior to filing this lawsuit.

11. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) and (c), venue is proper in this district because: (i) a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims occurred in this District; and, (ii) the Defendant resides (and therefore can be found) in this District and resides in this State. Additionally, venue is proper in this District pursuant 28 U.S.C. § 1400(a) (venue for copyright cases) because Defendant or Defendant's agent resides or may be found in this District.

Parties

12. Strike 3 is a Delaware limited liability company located at 2140 S. Dupont Hwy, Camden, DE.

13. Plaintiff currently can only identify Defendant by his or her IP address. Defendant's IP address is 172.249.120.83. Defendant's name and address can be provided by Defendant's Internet Service Provider.

Factual Background

Plaintiff's Award-Winning Copyrights

14. Strike 3's subscription based websites proudly boast a paid subscriber base that is one of the highest of any adult-content sites in the world. Strike 3 also licenses its motion pictures to popular broadcasters and Strike 3's motion pictures are the number one selling adult DVDs in the United States.

15. Strike 3's motion pictures and websites have won numerous awards, such as "best cinematography," "best new studio," and "adult site of the year."

One of Strike 3's owners, three-time director of the year Greg Lansky, has been dubbed the adult film industry's "answer to Steven Spielberg."

16. Strike 3's motion pictures have had positive global impact, leading more adult studios to invest in better content, higher pay for performers, and to treat each performer with respect and like an artist.

17. Unfortunately, Strike 3, like a large number of other makers of motion picture and television works, has a major problem with Internet piracy. Often appearing among the most infringed popular entertainment content on torrent websites, Strike 3's motion pictures are among the most pirated content in the world.

Defendant Used the BitTorrent File Distribution Network to Infringe Plaintiff's Copyrights

18. BitTorrent is a system designed to quickly distribute large files over the Internet. Instead of downloading a file, such as a movie, from a single source, BitTorrent users are able to connect to the computers of other BitTorrent users in order to simultaneously download and upload pieces of the file from and to other users.

19. To use BitTorrent to download a movie, the user has to obtain a “torrent” file for that movie, from a torrent website. The torrent file contains instructions for identifying the Internet addresses of other BitTorrent users who have the movie, and for downloading the movie from those users. Once a user downloads all of the pieces of that movie from the other BitTorrent users, the movie is automatically reassembled into its original form, ready for playing.

20. BitTorrent's popularity stems from the ability of users to directly interact with each other to distribute a large file without creating a heavy load on any individual source computer and/or network. It enables Plaintiff's motion pictures, which are often filmed in state of the art 4kHD, to be transferred quickly and efficiently. Moreover, BitTorrent is designed so that the more files a user

1 offers for download to others, the faster the user's own downloads become. In
2 this way, each user benefits from illegally distributing other's content and
3 violating copyright laws.

4 21. Each piece of a BitTorrent file is assigned a unique cryptographic
5 hash value.

6 22. The cryptographic hash value of the piece ("piece hash") acts as that
7 piece's unique digital fingerprint. Every digital file has one single possible
8 cryptographic hash value correlating to it. The BitTorrent protocol utilizes
9 cryptographic hash values to ensure each piece is properly routed amongst
10 BitTorrent users as they engage in file sharing.

11 23. The entirety of the digital media file also has a unique cryptographic
12 hash value ("file hash"), which acts as a digital fingerprint identifying the digital
13 media file (e.g. a movie). Once infringers complete the downloading of all pieces
14 which comprise a digital media file, the BitTorrent software uses the file hash to
15 determine that the file is complete and accurate.

16 24. Defendant used the BitTorrent file network to illegally download and
17 distribute Plaintiff's copyrighted motion pictures.

18 25. Plaintiff's investigator, IPP International U.G. ("IPP") established
19 direct TCP/IP connections with the Defendant's IP address as outlined on Exhibit
20 A while Defendant was using the BitTorrent file distribution network.

21 26. While Defendant was infringing, IPP downloaded from Defendant
22 one or more pieces of the digital media files containing Strike 3's motion pictures
23 listed on Exhibit A ("Works").

24 27. A full copy of each digital media file was downloaded from the
25 BitTorrent file distribution network, and it was confirmed through independent
26 calculation that the file hash correlating to each file matched the file hash
27 downloaded by Defendant.

28. Defendant downloaded, copied, and distributed a complete copy of Plaintiff's Works without authorization.

29. At no point was Plaintiff's copyrighted content uploaded by IPP to any BitTorrent user.

30. The digital media files have been verified to contain a digital copy of a motion picture that is identical (or alternatively, strikingly similar or substantially similar) to Plaintiff's corresponding original copyrighted Works.

31. Defendant's infringement is continuous and ongoing. Absent this lawsuit, Plaintiff knows of no way to effectively prevent Defendant from infringing Plaintiff's motion pictures.

32. Plaintiff owns the copyrights to the Works and the Works have either been registered with the United States Copyright Office or have pending copyright registrations. The United States Copyright Office registration information for the Works, including the registration number, is outlined on Exhibit A.

33. For Plaintiff's Works that are still pending registration, a complete application, fees, and deposit materials for copyright registration have been received by the Copyright Office in compliance with the Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. §§ 101, et seq. The application number is listed on Exhibit A.

34. Plaintiff is entitled to seek statutory damages and attorneys' fees under 17 U.S.C. § 501 of the United States Copyright Act.

COUNT I

Direct Copyright Infringement

35. The allegations contained in paragraphs 1-34 are hereby re-alleged as if fully set forth herein.

36. Plaintiff is the owner of the Works, which is an original work of authorship.

37. Defendant copied and distributed the constituent elements of Plaintiff's Works using the BitTorrent protocol.

1 38. At no point in time did Plaintiff authorize, permit or consent to
2 Defendant's copying, distribution, performance and/or display of its Works,
3 expressly or otherwise.

4 39. As a result of the foregoing, Defendant violated Plaintiff's exclusive
5 right to:

6 (A) Reproduce its Works in copies, in violation of 17 U.S.C. §§ 106(1)
7 and 501;

8 (B) Distribute copies of the Works to the public by sale or other transfer
9 of ownership, or by rental, lease or lending, in violation of 17 U.S.C. §§ 106(3)
10 and 501;

11 (C) Perform the copyrighted Works, in violation of 17 U.S.C. §§ 106(4)
12 and 501, by showing the Works' images in any sequence and/or by making the
13 sounds accompanying the Works' audible and transmitting said performance of
14 the work, by means of a device or process, to members of the public capable of
15 receiving the display (as set forth in 17 U.S.C. § 101's definitions of "perform"
16 and "publically" perform); and

17 (D) Display the copyrighted Works, in violation of 17 U.S.C. §§ 106(5)
18 and 501, by showing individual images of the works non-sequentially and
19 transmitting said display of the works by means of a device or process to members
20 of the public capable of receiving the display (as set forth in 17 U.S.C. § 101's
21 definition of "publicly" display).

22 40. Defendant's infringements were committed "willfully" within the
23 meaning of 17 U.S.C. § 504(c)(2).

24 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that the Court:

25 (A) Permanently enjoin Defendant from continuing to infringe Plaintiff's
26 copyrighted Works;

27 (B) Order that Defendant delete and permanently remove the digital
28 media files relating to Plaintiff's Works from each of the computers under

1 Defendant's possession, custody or control;

2 (C) Order that Defendant delete and permanently remove the infringing
3 copies of the Works Defendant has on computers under Defendant's possession,
4 custody or control;

5 (D) Award Plaintiff statutory damages per infringed work pursuant to 17
6 U.S.C. § 504(a) and (c);

7 (E) Award Plaintiff its reasonable attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to
8 17 U.S.C. § 505; and

9 (F) Grant Plaintiff any other and further relief this Court deems just and
10 proper.

11 **DEMAND FOR A JURY TRIAL**

12 Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

13 Dated: June 4, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

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15 By: 
16 Lincoln D. Bandlow, Esq.
17 FOX ROTHSCHILD LLP

18 *Attorney for Plaintiff*

19 Strike 3 Holdings, LLC